

**A Holy Cross School in the Context of the
Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross**

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COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

We understand our schools to be a shared undertaking, schools characterized by mutual respect, vibrant and hopeful signs of a coming kingdom (*C 2, 11*). Students, faculty, parents, trustees and alumni/ae are united in a common mission to recognize and develop the gifts of each member, to transform and to discover the deepest longing in the lives of all members, especially the young (*C 2, 16*).

The school community can be recognized as a place for all to sit at the Lord's feet and listen more closely (*C 3,32*). Education of the heart is as important as education of the mind and the community recognition of our one hope (*Spes unica*) unites us and reveals that our effort is more than human resources alone can bring to life's experiences (*C 8,118*).

The school extends itself for the needs of neighbors as a cheerful friend to the locale and to give witness where others might hesitate, to stand by dutifully when burden exceeds delight (*C 8, 116*).

GLOBAL + INCLUSIVE + ACCEPTING

Our school families recognize that the farther they go in accepting the more they stand to receive (*C 2, 17*) and there is a recognition that the community stands to learn from those whom it is called to teach (*C 2,16*).

Members of the community stand side-by-side with one another hoping for a world where justice and love will prevail (*C 2, 12*). The community reaches out in purposeful and sensitive ways to any in the community who may be separated, alienated, sick or grieving (*C 4, 37*).

Differences of opinion, misunderstanding and resentment are frankly but discreetly reconciled (*C 4, 41*). Academic, cultural, religious and economic diversity are not permitted to divide the community but are celebrated for witnessing to an alienated world that because of our love for the Lord we have become closest neighbors, trustworthy friends, brothers and sisters (*C 4, 42*).

LIBERAL, VALUE-CENTERED EDUCATION

Our school communities strive to integrate faith with culture through a critical, respectful dialogue which interprets the signs of the times in the perspective of the contradictory sign of the cross (*C 8, 115*).

The Holy Cross school experience is characterized by formation and transformation. Development of the whole person is encouraged through a supportive atmosphere of academic excellence and the motivation of quality teaching. As a community the school calls into question the societal values of pleasure, wealth and power, placing them in the context of the enduring values of those who would be in the service of the Kingdom (*C 5, 45*).

The discipline of the school is characterized by supportive confrontation and sensitive encouragement (*C 6, 78*). An individual sense of personal self-esteem and accomplishment is an important product of the educational process and is actively promoted through public recognition of accomplishments thus enabling each student the experience of being God's cherished child (*C 2, 15*).

Like Father Moreau we place value on a wide range of activities including the physical, social, artistic as well as religious and intellectual.

FLEXIBLE + ADAPTIVE + OPEN

Our schools recognize no universal formula for success but are committed to periodic review of how well it fulfills its mission, evaluating the quality, forms and priorities of all commitments (*C 2, 19*).

As members of a school community we commit ourselves to share who we are, what we have and what we do (*C 5, 46*). We make an active attempt to express the gospel message in a manner rooted and enriched by the varying contexts and cultures in which we live thus hoping to make it more effective and accepted (*C 5, 52*). Thus our message is certain to be universal and contemporary.

We are open to dialogue and communication always attempting to establish consensus for change. But where consensus cannot be achieved clear lines of authority are drawn. Collaborative structures and due process insure the dignity and rights of all individuals who are expected to recognize the interdependent nature of community and the value of the common good.

We recognize that the strength of our school is dependent on the quality of the persons serving there and that questions of organization take second place to the needs of individuals.